



HEALTH INFORMATION

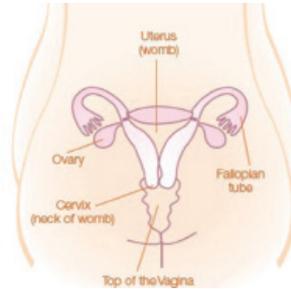
# Cervical Cancer

CERVICAL CANCER  
AWARENESS



## What is cervical cancer?

Cervical cancer is the second most common type of cancer for women worldwide, but because it develops over time, it is also one of the most preventable types of cancer. Cancer is a disease in which cells in the body grow out of control. Thankfully cervical cancer is the easiest female cancer to prevent, with regular screening tests.



## Who gets cervical cancer?

All women are at risk however it tends to occur in women over 30 years old. It rarely affects women under 20, and approximately 20 percent of diagnoses are made in women older than 65. For this reason, it is important for women to continue cervical cancer screening until at least the age of 70.

## Cervical cancer risks and causes

A Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) is the major cause of cervical cancer. HPV is passed on from one person to another through sexual contact. Women who smoke, take the contraceptive pill and those that have had large numbers of children are also more likely to get cervical cancer.

## What are the symptoms?

In the early stages cervical cancer usually does not cause signs and symptoms. Advanced cervical cancer may cause bleeding or discharge. You may also experience pain or discomfort during sex. Ensure you visit your GP immediately and undergo a cervical smear test to identify any issues.

## Cervical cancer screening

Regular cervical screening is very important as it can stop cervical cancer from developing. The screening is often referred to as a cervical smear.

A nurse or doctor will take a small sample of cells from the surface of your cervix which are then sent to a laboratory to be tested. Typically women will be tested every 2-3 years.

## For more information

[www.nhs.uk/conditions/cancer-of-the-cervix](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/cancer-of-the-cervix)

CANCER RESEARCH UK  [www.cancerhelp.org.uk](http://www.cancerhelp.org.uk)

[www.medigold-health.com](http://www.medigold-health.com)

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